1: Lorimer T-3 (1920-4; 1934-5) 1938 AV7 Burusho AV7

[643] ruled his country in the humanest and wisest of benevolent autocracies,
181 since the treaty of 1892 placed him on the throne of his murdered father
and parricide brother—to our humbler neighbours in Aliabad, the
609 village four miles below the capital which we made our headquarters
for fifteen months. As soon as the people grasped the purpose of our
[212] coming (which was not easy to explain to an illiterate people) they were
overjoyed that a ' Sahib ' should trouble to learn their vernacular—
a thing which no white man or woman had done before—and take an
interest in their customs and hereditary lore. At first they would
hesitate : ' but you have wheels (=machines) in England, and can do
all these things better than we can '. Within a few days they were
vying with each other in explaining, demonstrating and bringing
ploughs, looms, winnowing forks, bows, stone cooking pots to the
resthouse where we were installed, that D.L. might measure them and
take ' studio portraits ' of them, ' for you mustn't put anything in the
book about us that isn't exactly true '.

132 The entire life of the Hunzukuts is centred in water. The rain-
312 fall in the oasis level (7–9,000 feet), is negligible—we reckoned less
than 2 inches per annum ; in default of any means of raising the
361 water, the river, flowing between its crumbly earthen cliffs, 500 or 1,000
feet below their fields is useless for irrigation ; there are no springs or
wells ; hence all water for all purposes must be trapped high up at the
snout of some side glacier and conveyed on galleried aqueducts across
yawning gorges and the faces of sheer cliffs. The main water channel,
the Dala, which supplies all the more recent villages of Hunza, ' the
new settlements ' as they are called in contradistinction to the three
original villages—Baltit the capital, Altit and Ganesh—travels some
8 or 10 miles in its circuitous route from the Herber glacier in the
gorge behind Baltit, cradled between snow-peaks of 23,000 feet, before
it peters out in a semicircular sweep round Aliabad.

312 The Dala was dug some three or four generations ago (90–100
412 years) with wooden shovels and wooden picks tipped with ibex horn,
and represents an amazing feat of engineering skill for people without
816 any instruments of precision. The sluices that control the distribu-
tion of water—every teaspoonful of which is rigorously allotted—are
of the simplest ; most often a slab of flattish stone plastered in with
mud, sometimes a wooden shutter sliding in a rude wooden frame,
sometimes when the water is being taken off to a lower level a circular
hole in a stone slab, closed at need with a mushroom-shaped stopper,
rough hewn from a solid tree trunk.